GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1064
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2006
UNESCO S REPORT ON EDUCATION OF CHILDREN
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNESCO`s Education for All Global Monitoring Report has indicated lacunae in the amount allocated for education for all scheme and also gives very poor grades to India when it comes to educating its children as reported in the Times of India dated October 29, 2006 and Dainik Jagran dated November 10, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has studied the said report;

(d) if so, the finding thereof alongwith the action taken thereon;

(e) whether the report submitted by UNESCO is in complete contrast to regularly monitored and updated figures of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan which show that the dropout rate is coming down and more and more girls are going to school; and

(f) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (f) : The UNESCO Education for All Global Monitoring Report − 2007 is not India specific. However, references have been made to India throughout the Report. As per the report India ranks 99th in the list with a composite Education for All Development

Index (EDI) of 0.789. Referring to a Nationwide Sample Survey on out of school children by the Social and Rural Research Institute in 2005, the report says that the number of out of school children has halved from 25 million in 2002 to 13.5 million in 2005. The nation-wide sample survey was commissioned by the Government of India under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan Programme.

In the matter of teacher absenteeism, the Report includes India in a group of six developing countries. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has addressed this issue by strengthening the process by decentralized management and supervision of schools through Village Education Committees and Panchayati Raj Institutions, so as to ensure better local accountability of schools and teachers to the Community.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan including National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme, there is a clear targeting for education of girls especially those of disadvantaged communities like SC, ST, OBC and Minority groups and in specific pockets of the country where female literacy is low.

Although the Report is titled `The 2007 Report`, the data used in the present issue is from 2004. In case of India, the 2001 population census data has been used and therefore does not accurately reflect the present situation.